

COAKLEY LANDFILL SUPERFUND SITE, NORTH HAMPTON, NH (6-4-18)

- The Coakley Landfill is a capped and fenced 29-acre landfill, with a 65-acre NHDES Groundwater Management Zone which restricts groundwater use at some properties within North Hampton, Greenland, and Rye, NH. PFAS have been detected in groundwater, surface water, and sediment at or in close proximity to the landfill.
- There is a high level of public and legislative concern and involvement due to the existence of a pediatric cancer cluster in the Seacoast area. While the Coakley Landfill Superfund Site has been at the center of press coverage regarding PFAS, no data gathered to date point to an immediate threat from the Coakley site, nor is there any evidence of a connection between the site and the cancer cluster. There may be other potential PFAS contamination sources in the area.
- Over 80 private drinking water wells have been tested and none exceeded the EPA Health Advisory/NHDES Ambient Groundwater Quality Standard for PFAS (70 parts per trillion). Citizens and state legislators have recently pointed to groundwater standards in other states (VT, NJ) that are more stringent than 70 ppt, and have raised concern about the recent press articles related to the ATSDR report on PFAS.
- EPA has recently required the PRPs to begin work on an extensive groundwater investigation in the site's deep bedrock to ensure that contamination has not moved through bedrock in unexpected directions. There was significant public attention focused on this effort, including a letter from the two NH Senators calling for EPA to expedite this study. The Coakley Landfill Group has initiated the bedrock study, including surveying and sampling a new deep bedrock borehole, performing surface geophysics and identifying and inspecting existing bedrock boreholes. New deep bedrock boreholes will be drilled and surveyed in June.
- EPA is working with NHDES and the PRPs to further evaluate surface water PFAS detections in Berry's Brook in an area close to the Coakley site, including a fish sampling effort in the brook scheduled to begin in June. While detections of PFAS in surface water samples near the landfill slightly exceeded our most conservative screening levels, these levels drop off substantially as the brook approaches a nearby residential area. It's also important to note that it's inappropriate to compare these surface water detections to drinking water advisory levels, as the brook water is not used for drinking water purposes and there is no evidence of any connection between these surface water detections and detections in groundwater.
- Extensive public outreach continues: EPA has been coordinating with a Legislative Commission created by the Governor last summer to enhance communication with policy makers and the community; a recent public meeting in early April was attended by 70 local citizens

A few notes regarding Ms. Jillian Lane, a leading neighborhood activist who is hosting this visit:

- Ms. Lane owns a home approximately 1 mile from the Coakley site in an area not expected to be impacted by Coakley groundwater contamination as her neighborhood is both upgradient and beyond the watershed boundary. The ongoing bedrock study will help confirm or deny this opinion.
- PFAS contamination in Ms. Lane's neighborhood has been consistently below the advisory/state standard. The highest detection in her well was 3.06 ppt (PFOA & PFOS), and the highest in that neighborhood was 3.3 ppt. (22 residential wells have been sampled in her neighborhood: 16 Non-detect; 6 with low level detections; 3.3 was the highest detection in this immediate neighborhood). A residential well in a nearby neighborhood adjacent to a nursery and I-95 had detections as high as 30.4 ppt in 2016.

- The sources of these detections are not known, but could be coming from other sites or even residential septic systems, as there is no public sewer system in the area. The deep bedrock investigation will provide further data regarding the any possible hydraulic connections.
- Ms. Lane's primary concerns are that the EPA and NHDES have different views of the impact of contamination from the site and that EPA's health advisory is not as stringent and protective as standards set in several states (e.g., neighboring Vermont uses a 20 ppt standard). Regarding NHDES' view of the impact, we believe we are generally on the same page as the state on the groundwater/drinking water issue, while NHDES has suggested that detections in Berry's Brook surface water near the landfill might require further action, but this is separate and distinct from the citizens' drinking water concerns. Ms. Lane is a citizen representative on the NH Legislative Commission investigating the seacoast cancer cluster.
- Others that may be attending this visit include:
 - Mindi Messmer – State Representative for this area and very vocal critic of the cleanup and CLG; member of the NH Legislative Commission investigating the seacoast cancer cluster.
 - Matt Ely – Associate Director of Hydrologic Interpretive Programs, USGS New England Water Science Center.
 - Tom Mack – Hydrologist, USGS New England Water Science Center; member of the NH Legislative Commission investigating the seacoast cancer cluster.
 - Tom Irwin – Representative from Conservation Law Foundation which has conducted independent sampling for PFAS in Berrys Brook surface water and shellfish, and is involved in the Great Bay/ Piscataqua River estuary area, which includes Pease.